

Remarks

The Office Action objected to claims 13-19 and 47-53 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, variously rejected claims 1-3, 5, 6, 10-19, 21-26, 28, 32-36, and 46-55. The subject matter of claims 4, 7-9, 15-19, 20, 27, 29-31, 37-45, and 50-53 was deemed allowable, if amended to overcome various objections.

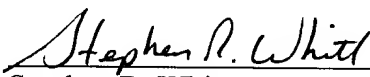
In response, applicant has amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of allowed claim 4, amended claims 2 and 13 to correct antecedent basis issues, and canceled claims 4, 5, and 47-55. Thus, claims 1-3, and 6-46 remain pending for consideration.

Additionally, dependent claim 7 has been amended and is now expressed in independent form, incorporating all the limitations of original claim 1.

All pending claims now depend from independent claims 1 or 7, as amended. Since both of these claims have been deemed allowable over the art of record, applicant requests allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 30, 2003


Stephen R. Whitt
Reg. No. 34,753
(703) 433-9208